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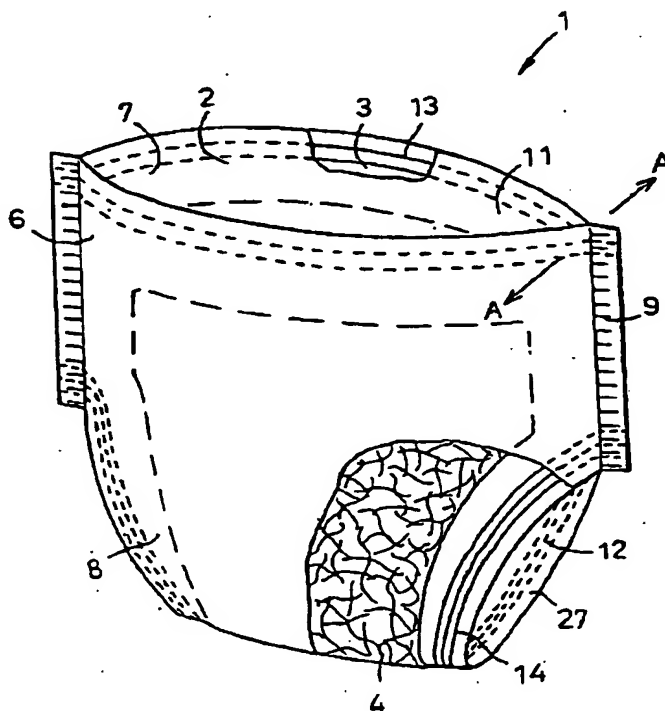
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(54) Disposable pull-on garment

(57) A disposable pull-on garment defining a waist-opening, at least one of inner and outer surfaces of a peripheral edge of the waist-opening has a friction co-

efficient higher than that on an inner surface of at least front and rear regions of the garment except the inner surface of the waist-opening's peripheral edge.

FIG.1



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Description

[0001] This invention relates to a disposable pants-type garment.

[0002] In the disposable pull-on garment such as a disposable pull-on diaper, a sheet, for example, of a nonwoven fabric having a relatively low friction has conventionally been used as a topsheet so that the wearer's skin may experience a comfortable touch. Japanese Patent Application Disclosure No. 1999-104180 describes a pull-on diaper provided on the outer surface of its backsheet with a plurality of window-like recesses adapted to be engaged with the finger tips as the diaper is pulled upward along the wearer's torso with a peripheral edge of a waist-opening held with the finger tips after the wearer's legs have been put through the diaper. The window-like recesses function to prevent the finger tips from slipping off from the peripheral edge of the waist-opening.

[0003] In the case of such a pull-on diaper of prior art, it is considerably difficult or troublesome for both the baby and the aged to localize the window-like recesses and then to insert his or her finger tips into them if the diaper must be put on his or her body by his or her own hands.

[0004] It is an object of this invention to provide a disposable pull-on garment improved so that the peripheral edge of the waist-opening may be easily and reliably held with the wearer's own finger tips.

[0005] There is provided a disposable pull-on garment having an inner surface and an outer surface, the garment comprising: a front region; a rear region; a crotch region; the front and rear regions being joined along transversely opposite side edges thereof to form a waist-opening and a pair of leg-openings; respective peripheral edges of the waist-opening and the leg-openings being elastically; and at least the inner and outer surfaces of the waist-opening's peripheral edge has a friction coefficient higher than that on the inner surface of said at least one of the front and rear regions except the inner surface of the waist-opening's peripheral edge.

[0006] The disposable pull-on garment according to this invention is provided on at least one of inner and outer surfaces of the waist-opening's peripheral edge having a friction coefficient higher than that on the inner surface of the remaining zone so that the finger tips holding the longitudinal end of the diaper to wear the diaper may be reliably maintained in engagement with an upper end of front and/or rear regions.

Fig. 1 is a perspective view showing a partially cut-away disposable pull-on diaper exploited in accordance with this invention, as partially broken away;

Fig. 2 is a perspective view showing the partially cutaway diaper in its developed state;

Fig. 3 is a sectional view taken along line III - III in Fig. 2;

Fig. 4 is a view similar to Fig. 2 but showing another

embodiment of this invention;

Fig. 5 is a sectional view taken along line V - V in Fig. 4; and

Fig. 6 is a view similar to Fig. 1 but showing still another embodiment of this invention.

[0007] Details of this invention will be more fully understood from the description of a disposable pull-on diaper as one embodiment as will be given hereunder with reference to the accompanying drawings.

[0008] A pull-on diaper 1 shown by Fig. 1 in a perspective view partially broken away comprises a liquid-permeable topsheet 2, a liquid-impermeable backsheet 3 and an absorbent core 4 disposed between these two sheets 2, 3. Configurationally, the diaper 1 is composed of a front waist region 6, a rear waist region 7 and a crotch region 8 extending between these two waist regions 6, 7. The front and rear waist regions 6, 7 respectively have their transversely opposite side edges put flat and joined together at spots 9 arranged intermittently along the respective side edges in vertical direction to form a waist-opening 11 and a pair of leg-openings 12. Portions of the topsheet 2 and the backsheet 3 extending outward beyond a peripheral edge of the absorbent core 4 placed upon and joined to each other. In the vicinity of the waist-opening 11 and the leg-openings 12, elastic members 13 associated with the waist-opening 11 and elastic members 14 associated with the leg-openings 12 circumferentially extend between the topsheet 2 and the backsheet 3 and are secured under tension to the inner surface of at least one of these sheets 2, 3.

[0009] Fig. 2 is a perspective view partially broken away, showing the diaper 1 of Fig. 1 as the front and rear waist regions 6, 7 are separated from each other along the respective arrays of the spots 9 and developed in a direction indicated by a double-headed arrow A - A. Along an upper end 16 of the front waist region 6 which defines the waist-opening 11, a slippage-resistant sheet 21 having its surface of a relatively high friction coefficient is attached on the upper surface of the topsheet 2. This slippage-resistant sheet 21 has a width W as measured longitudinally of the diaper 1 (i.e., vertically of Fig. 1) and a length L as measured circumferentially of the trunk regions. The slippage-resistant sheet 21 has a friction coefficient higher than that of the topsheet 2 and more specifically has a static friction coefficient of 0.8 or higher and a dynamic friction coefficient of 0.035 or higher both measured by a measuring apparatus KES-G5 of KATO TECH Co., Ltd. (Kyoto City, Kyoto Prefecture, Japan). The width W of the slippage-resistant sheet 21 extends downward from the waist-opening's peripheral edge of the diaper 1 preferably beyond the elastic member 13 associated with the waist-opening 11. An upper limit of the width W is 60 mm. The length L is at least 20 mm and preferably extends over an entire width of the front waist region 6 as shown. It is undesirable to form the upper end 16 of the disposable diaper 1 only by the slippage-resistant sheet 21. This is because the step of

forming the upper end 16 will be thereby complicated contrarily to the fundamental idea of the disposable diaper lying in that the steps for making the diaper should be simplified as drastically as possible and thereby the cost for making the diaper should be correspondingly reduced. The slippage-resistant sheet 21 as illustrated may be replaced by a plurality of relatively short slippage-resistant sheets 21 arranged intermittently in the circumferential direction.

[0010] Fig. 3 is a sectional view taken along line III - III in Fig. 2. Along the upper end 16 of the front waist region 6, the topsheet 2 and the backsheet 3 are joined together by means of hot melt adhesive 22. The slippage-resistant sheet 21 is attached in the vicinity of its upper zone 23 (left-hand zone as viewed in Fig. 3) as well as its lower zone 24 (right-hand zone as viewed in Fig. 3) to the upper surface of the topsheet 2 by means of hot melt adhesive 22. An intermediate zone 26 of the slippage-resistant sheet 21 defined between the upper and lower zones 23, 24 may be either attached or not attached to the topsheet 2, the latter case is illustrated in Fig. 3. The adhesive 22 is applied on the slippage-resistant sheet 21 so as to leave the respective outermost edges of the upper and lower zones 23, 24 free and therefore there is no possibility that the adhesive 22 might come in contact with the wearer's skin. The slippage-resistant sheet 21 may be formed by various materials, for example, a nonwoven fabric made of elastic fiber based on rubber such as urethane rubber, a nonwoven fabric made of the elastic fiber of 30 - 100 % by weight and inelastic synthetic fiber of 70 - 0 % by weight, a sheet based on rubber such as urethane rubber and a foamed sheet made of foamed urethane or the like. The foamed sheet is preferably of open cell type to improve a breathability of the diaper 1.

[0011] The diaper 1 constructed as has been described above can be easily put on by pulling the diaper 1 upward with the upper end 16 of the front waist region 6 held with the finger tips without the finger slipping off from the upper end 16. The slippage-resistant sheet 21 having its intermediate zone 26 not attached to the topsheet 2 as in the case of the embodiment shown by Fig. 3 is particularly advantageous since the intermediate zone 26 is relatively movable together with the wearer's finger tips and effective to improve a slippage-resistant effect. Additionally, the effect of the slippage-resistant sheet 21 can be improved by adjusting a friction coefficient presented by respective peripheral edges 27 (See Figs. 1 and 2) of the leg-openings 12 on their inner surfaces to be lower than the friction coefficient presented by the slippage-resistant sheet 21. For example, a static friction coefficient of the former may be adjusted to be 1/3 or less of the static friction coefficient of the latter and a dynamic friction coefficient of the former may be adjusted to be 1/2 or less of the dynamic coefficient of the latter to improve the effect of the slippage-resistant sheet 21 correspondingly. In this case, the inner surfaces of said peripheral edges 27 may be defined by a spun

lace nonwoven fabric or a spun bond nonwoven fabric made of conjugated fiber comprising polypropylene as a core and polyethylene as a sheath wherein said conjugated fiber may be in crimped state or not. It is also possible to reduce the friction coefficient of the inner surfaces of the peripheral edges 27 by appropriately surface-treating them.

[0012] Fig. 4 is a view similar to Fig. 2 but showing another embodiment of this invention. According to this embodiment of the diaper 1, the inner surfaces of the upper ends 16, 17 of the front and rear waist regions 6, 7, respectively, are formed by a front slippage-resistant sheet 21A and a rear slippage-resistant sheet 21B both made of foamed urethane, respectively. The front slippage-resistant sheet 21A is formed with a plurality of through-holes 31 arranged intermittently in the circumferential direction.

[0013] Fig. 5 is a sectional view taken along line A - A in Fig. 4. The through-hole 31 of the front slippage-resistant sheet 21A has a diameter of at least 5 mm and extends through the sheet 21A in the direction of its thickness.

[0014] As will be apparent from Figs. 4 and 5, this diaper 1 may be provided with the slippage-resistant sheets 21 (21A, 21B) in both the front and rear waist regions 6, 7. The through-holes 31 as those of the front slippage-resistant sheet 21A are effective to prevent the finger tips once engaged with these through-holes 31 as the diaper 1 is held with the finger tips from slipping off from the diaper 1.

[0015] Fig. 6 is a view similar to Fig. 1 but showing still another embodiment of this invention. According to this embodiment, the outer surface of the front waist region 6 is provided along the upper end 16 defining the waist-opening 11 with a pair of the slippage sheets 21 spaced from each other in the circumferential direction. In this case, these slippage sheets 21 have a static friction coefficient and/or a dynamic friction coefficient higher than those presented by the inner surface of the zone other than said longitudinal end 16. In such diaper 1, it is also possible to attach an additional slippage-resistant sheet 21 to the inner surface of the front waist region 6 along its upper end 16. It is also possible to attach the slippage-resistant sheets 21 to the outer surface and/or the inner surface of the rear waist region 7 along its upper end 17 in addition to or in the place of those attached to the front waist region 6. The slippage-resistant sheets 21 arranged intermittently in the circumferential direction are not limited to one pair as in the embodiment shown in Fig. 6 but it is also possible to provide a single slippage-resistant sheet 21 or three or more slippage-resistant sheets 21 in the circumferential direction.

[0016] To exploit this invention, the stock materials conventionally used in the relevant art may be used to form the topsheet 2 and the backsheet 3 and the absorbent core 4, respectively. This invention is applicable not only to the diaper 1 as shown and described, but also to disposable pants, disposable training pants or

the like.

Claims

1. A disposable pull-on garment having an inner surface and an outer surface, the garment comprising:

a front waist region;
a rear waist region;
a crotch region;
the front and rear waist regions being joined along transversely opposite side edges thereof to form a waist-opening and a pair of leg-openings;
respective peripheral edges of the waist-opening and the leg-openings being elastic; and
at least one of the inner and outer surfaces of the waist-opening's peripheral edge has a friction coefficient higher than that on the inner surface of said at least the front and rear waist regions except the inner surface of the waist-opening's peripheral edge.

2. The garment according to Claim 1, wherein the inner surface of said waist-opening's peripheral edge has a width of 60 mm or less as measured vertically of said garment.

3. The garment according to Claim 1, wherein said friction coefficient has a static friction coefficient of 0.8 or higher.

4. The garment according to Claim 1, wherein said high friction coefficient has a static friction coefficient of 0.8 or higher and a dynamic friction coefficient of 0.035 or higher.

5. The garment according to Claim 1, wherein said static friction coefficient is at least three times of a static friction coefficient presented by the inner surface of said leg-opening's peripheral edge and said dynamic friction coefficient is at least two times of a dynamic friction coefficient presented by the inner surface of said leg-opening's peripheral edge.

6. The garment according to Claim 1, wherein said friction coefficient is formed by a sheet having a predetermined friction coefficient attached to said garment.

7. The garment according to Claim 6, wherein said sheet having the predetermined friction coefficient extends circumferentially of said garment and has upper and lower edges attached to said garment while an intermediate zone defined between said upper and lower edges not attached to said garment.

8. The garment according to claim 6, wherein said sheet having the predetermined friction coefficient contains polyurethane.

9. The garment according to Claim 6, wherein said sheet is formed with a plurality of through-holes arranged intermittently in the circumferential direction and each of said through-holes has a diameter of 5 mm or larger.

10. The garment according to Claim 1, wherein said front and rear waist regions and crotch region are formed by a liquid-pervious topsheet, a liquid-imperious backsheet and an absorbent core disposed between these two sheets.

FIG. 1

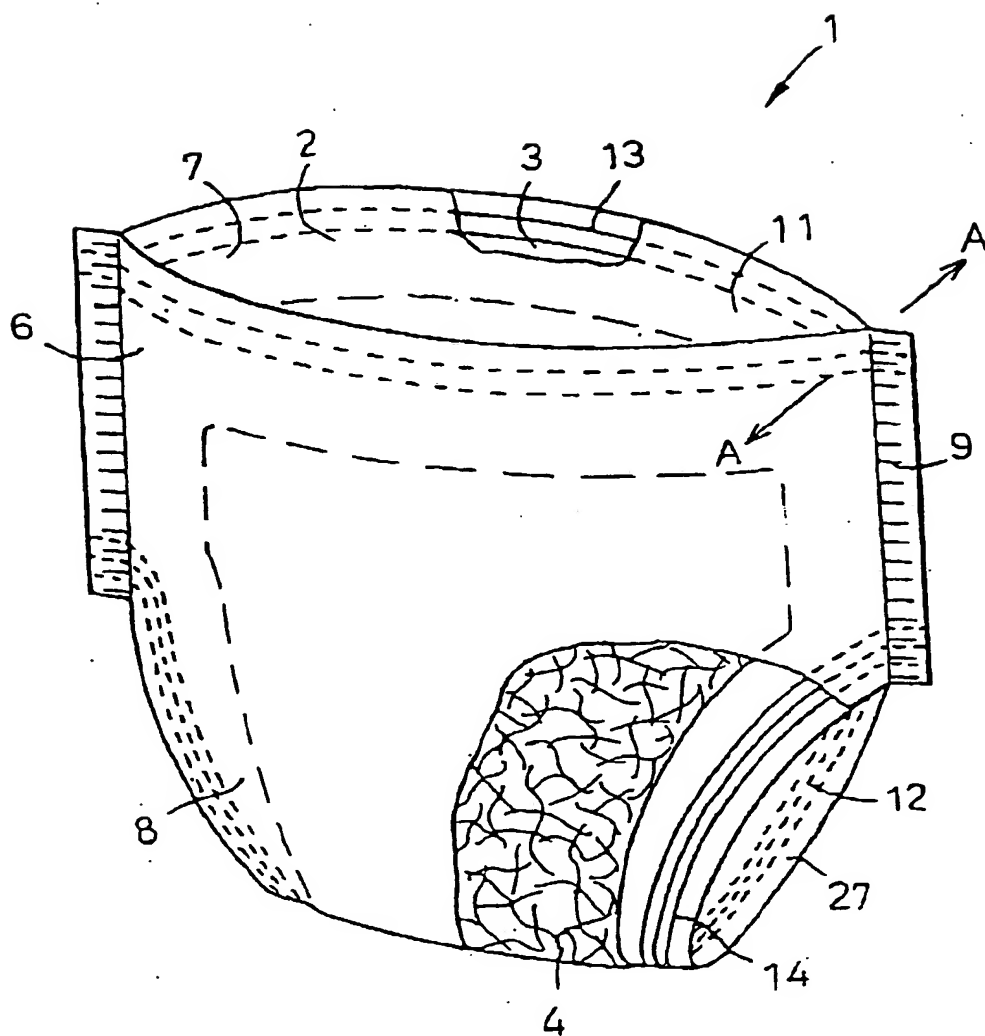


FIG. 2

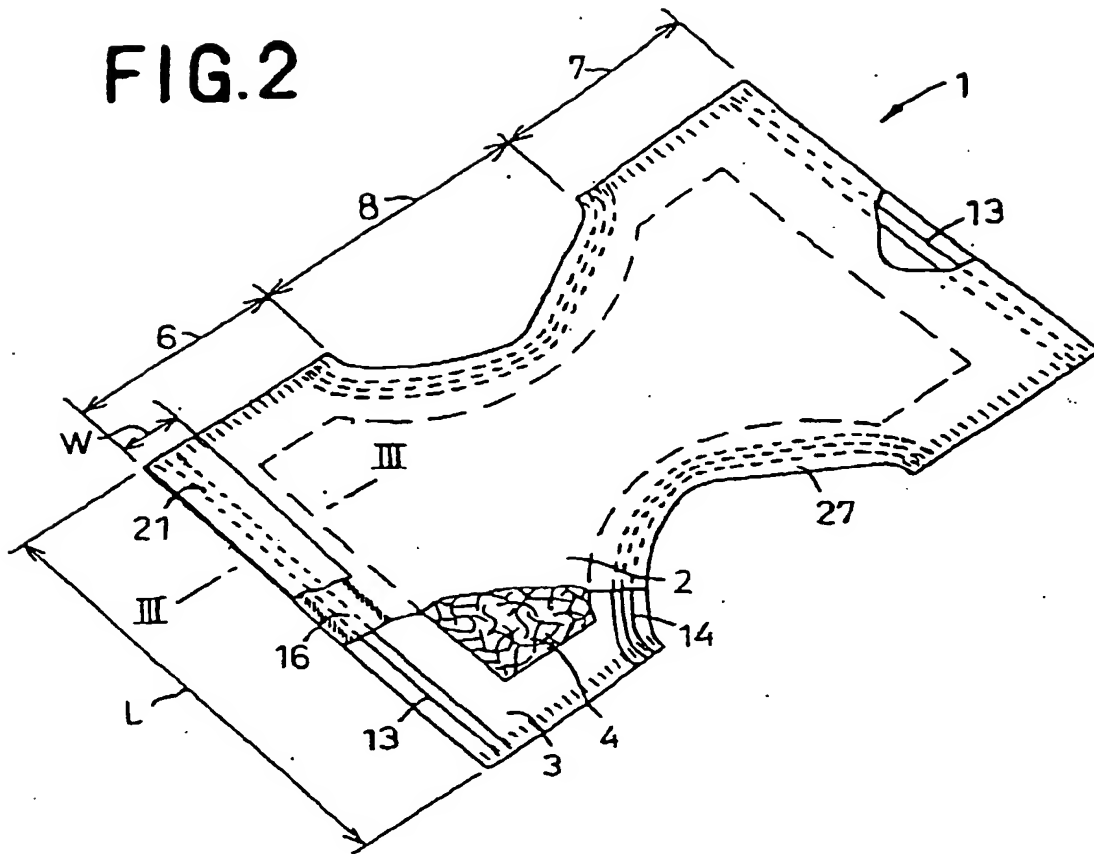


FIG. 3

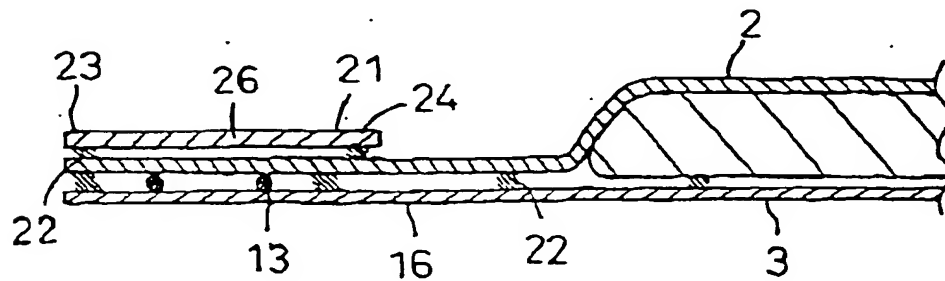


FIG. 4

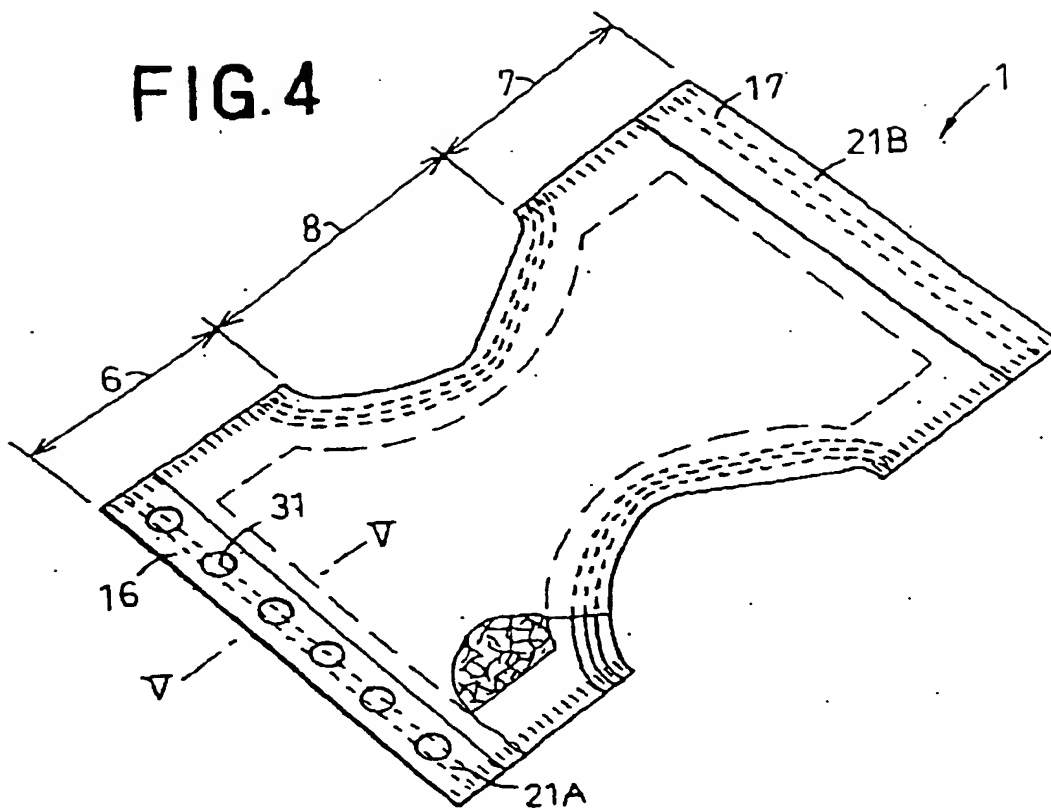


FIG. 5

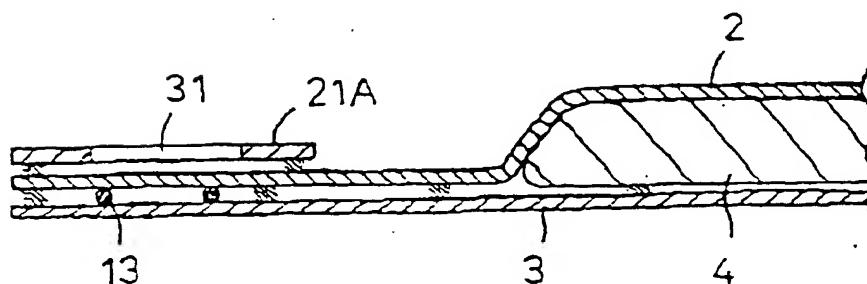
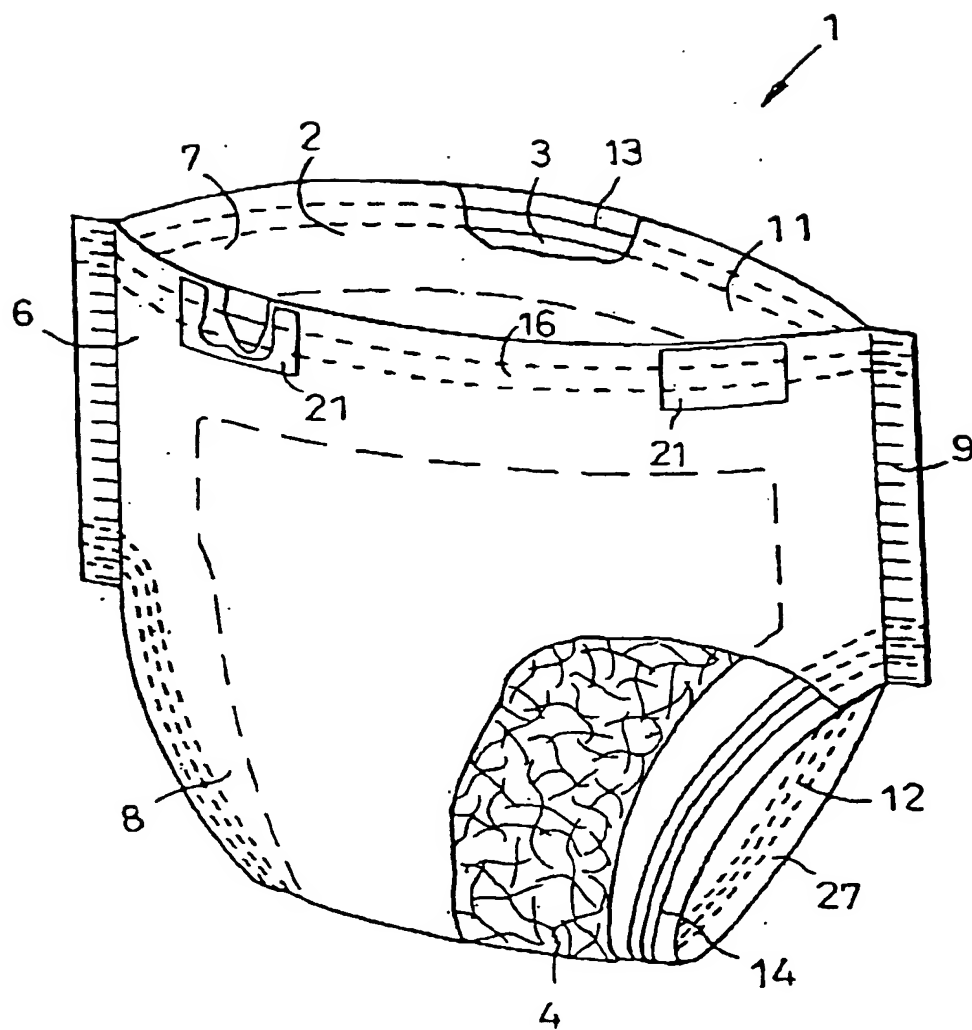
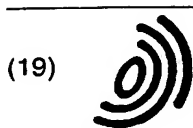


FIG.6





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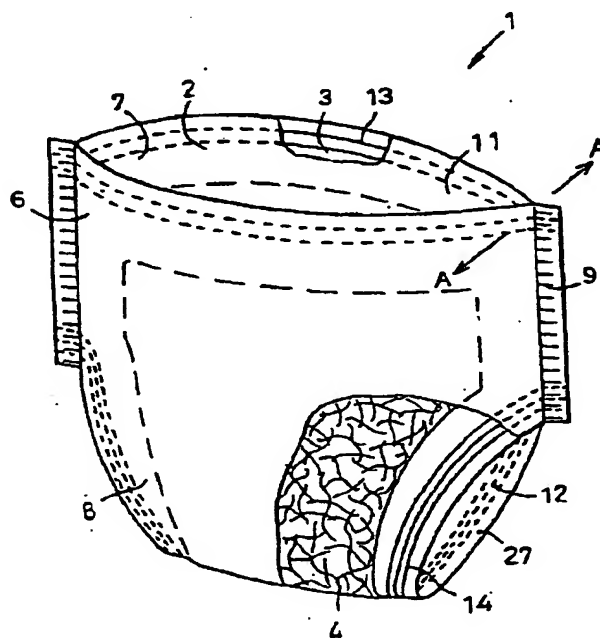
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FIG.1



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 00 30 6589

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Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
X	US 5 858 013 A (KLING ROBERT) 12 January 1999 (1999-01-12) * column 3, line 1 - line 67; claims 1,8,9; figures 1-6 *	1-6,8,10	A61F13/15
X	US 5 782 819 A (OLSON CHRISTOPHER PETER ET AL) 21 July 1998 (1998-07-21) * column 3, line 1 - line 29 * * column 24, line 64 - column 25, line 54; figures 8,8A *	1,6,10	
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			A61F
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search MUNICH		Date of completion of the search 2 March 2001	Examiner Louter, P
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